



Meeting  
April 21, 2015

Present: Commissioners

Stephen Albee, At-Large  
Sue Dana, Village of Calumet (by phone)  
Allan Johnson, State of Michigan  
Ed Jenich, Houghton County Board of Commissioners  
Kim Hoagland, At-Large (by phone)  
Bob Langseth, Calumet Township  
John Sullivan, Franklin and Quincy Townships

Present: Executive Director

Scott See

Present: Keweenaw National Park Service

Brian Hoduski, Chief of Museum Services  
Mike Pflaum, Superintendent

Present: Recording Secretary

John Arnold

Present: Guests

Judy Albee  
Anita Campbell, Keweenaw County Historical Society  
Paul Campbell, Calumet  
Cheryl Fahrner, Keweenaw Chamber of Commerce  
Pam Hawley, Houghton County Historical Society  
Mary Hunt, Calumet  
Virginia Jamison, Keweenaw County Historical Society  
Susan Martin, Michigan Technological University  
Larry Molloy, Keweenaw County Historical Society  
Nancy Molloy, Keweenaw County Historical Society  
Jean Pemberton, Copper Range Historical Society

### **Call to Order**

A regular meeting of the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission was called at 9:01 a.m., Tuesday, April 121, 2015, at the Keweenaw NHP Headquarters in Calumet, Michigan.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Moved by Stephen Albee and seconded by Allan Johnson to approve agenda as presented.

**Motion carried unanimously. (7/0).**

### **Approval of Minutes of January 13, 2014**

Moved by Ed Jenich and seconded by John Sullivan to approve the minutes as presented.

**Motion carried unanimously. (7/0).**

### **National Significance Spotlight: Dr. Susan Martin**

Dr. Susan Martin, Archaeologist and Professor Emerita of the Department of Social Sciences at Michigan Technological University, presented a fascinating introduction to the national and international significance of prehistoric copper mining on the Keweenaw Peninsula and Isle Royale.

Dr. Martin described the outstanding attributes of aboriginal copper mining activity in the area, reporting that the Keweenaw exhibits the earliest evidence of aboriginal mining not only in North America, but the whole of the Western Hemisphere—predating evidence of mining in South America by 2,500 years. The key to dating these artifacts, explained Dr. Martin, is the recovery of dateable organic material in-situ, such as wood handle remnants embedded in the socket of a copper tool; the oldest radiocarbon-dated copper tool in the Western Hemisphere—6,800 years old—is from the Keweenaw. Dr. Martin further noted that these finds are fully formed tools, indicating that the processes of technology transfer from working with stone to working with copper occurred well before that time. Furthermore, Dr. Martin explained that these copper-working technologies were not transferred here some other part of the world, but were rather skills developed independently here.

Finally, Dr. Martin reported that recent research on interior lakes on the Keweenaw and Isle Royale have found that sediments retrieved from the lake bottoms exhibit evidence of this prehistoric copper mining, noting that this is important not only to verify the age of the various mining sites in the area, but additionally to offer a preindustrial baseline from which we can study the impacts of modern industrial mining.

### **Discussion following Dr. Martin's presentation**

In response to a question from Commissioner Hoagland, Dr. Martin noted that these earliest aboriginal peoples do not have a tribal name, nor a linguistic name. However, continued Dr. Martin, over the long record of occupation of the upper Great Lakes as a whole—from around 10,000 years ago to present—there are no major interruptions or migrations of incoming peoples,

leading to the conclusion that they are the biological, cultural, and linguistic precursors to the modern Ojibwe populations that are here today.

### **Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Scott See reported on how the goals of the Advisory Commission were supported during the quarter.

#### **Advise the National Park Service at Keweenaw National Historical Park on park planning, preservation, interpretation, and operational matters.**

See participated in a National Park Service staff retreat in February to provide Commission input into discussions about the NPS's future budget and organizational structure at Keweenaw National Historical Park. See also provided Commission input into the creation of the park's Land Acquisition Ranking System (LARS) request, the process that the NPS uses to determine if there are buildings or property that are candidates for future acquisition by the NPS.

#### **Develop the Keweenaw Heritage Sites Program into a consortium of fully sustainable sites.**

See reported that he again has collected demographic data from the Heritage Sites to understand how the combined efforts of the Sites are contributing to the mission of the park. In 2014, the Heritage Sites served 270,000 visitors; provided 62,000 hours of volunteer time; employed 21 full-time employees and 86 part-time employees; and spent over \$2.4M operating their facilities. This investment represents more than a 1:1 match to the federal funding of the National Park Service and the Commission, and clearly illustrates the success of the public/private partnership inherent in Keweenaw National Historical Park.

See further reported that there will be Heritage Site representation at several upcoming NPS meetings. Three of the Sites will be part of the Foundations Planning session scheduled for next week, and representatives from three Sites will be attending the NPS Zone meeting in International Falls, MN in June.

See has also scheduled the spring Heritage Site meeting for May 18th. This meeting will provide an opportunity for the Sites to share their brochures with each other before the season, and provide an opportunity to share their plans for the summer.

#### **Develop partnerships that provide visitors with a cohesive, accessible, and engaging national park experience along the entire length of the Keweenaw.**

See has been working with the NPS and a local environmental consulting firm to plan for a large environmental cleanup undertaking at the Quincy Smelter this summer. The NPS has been able to obtain some funding from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative that will assist in efforts towards remediating the remaining environmental contamination on the site. This work is anticipated to also help move the conversation forward with the NPS concerning their possible acquisition of the smelter.

Franklin Township is in the final stages of renovating their new home in the old Quincy Fire Hall near the Quincy Mine. This means that they will soon be moving out of the old smelter office and the Advisory Commission can begin using the building. See is working with the NPS and the Quincy Smelter Association on configuring the office to best meet the needs of everyone involved.

As noted at the previous meeting, the Advisory Commission has enlisted PhD student John Arnold to help us explore preservation options for the industrial buildings of Calumet. John has completed the first phase of his work – the identification of the buildings to focus on – and will now begin his research into what other post-industrial communities are doing to protect and reuse their former industrial structures.

See met several times during the last quarter regarding the preservation of the Cliff Mine property currently owned by the Keweenaw County Road Commission. While there is not yet a detailed plan, See has been working with the road commission, Allouez Township, the Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District, and the Keweenaw Land Trust to develop a proposal for the purchase and protection of this important part of the area's history.

See also attended the second meeting facilitated by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Houghton Keweenaw Conservation District to discuss the future of the Torch Lake Watershed. The DEQ has been working on assessing current levels of contamination as well as the effectiveness of prior remediation efforts along the lake. See has attended these meetings to emphasize the value of the historic milling, reclamation, and smelting resources at Torch Lake, noting that if additional remediation efforts are necessary, See wants to ensure that the park's interests are part of the discussion.

Finally, See also attended a board meeting of the National Parks of Lake Superior Foundation (NPLSF). While the group has been in existence for nearly a decade, this is the first time that there has been a Commission representative at the meeting. As the NPLSF is the park's designated philanthropic partner, See's goal in attending this meeting was to begin to determine if there are ways in which the Commission could help this group to be more successful in obtaining regional and national financial support for the efforts of the parks. See reported that he has joined their development committee and is assisting with the creation of a new fund development plan.

### **Promote a historic preservation ethic and emphasize heritage awareness.**

See reported that the application period for the Advisory Commission's 2015 Heritage Grant Program closed on April 1st. The Commission received 23 applications asking for a total of \$188,000. While this is a pleasing response, the grant evaluation panel will have some difficult decisions to make over the next several days to fit these requests into the \$140,000 available for grants. Grants awarded will be announced by May 1st.

See, along with representatives from the Village of Calumet, Houghton County, and the NPS, met with State Representative Scott Dianda to discuss the general condition of historic buildings in the Village. While the Commission and the NPS are willing to assist with efforts to rehabilitate these important resources, the problems are just too large for any one entity to tackle. Representative Dianda was very open to input and pledged to see if there are State resources available to help with the situation. A follow-up meeting will take place early this summer.

Furthermore, See also made presentations during the quarter to the Hancock and Calumet Rotary clubs, covering the need to balance concern for the environment with the desire to protect historic industrial resources. See used an existing presentation that reviews the work at the Quincy Smelter and the Cliff Mine as examples, adding in several slides about the Gay stamp sands.

## **Develop the Commission into a sustainable operating organization.**

See further reported on a meeting with Congressman Benishek held during the past quarter, pointing out that while the Congressman had been to the park previously to learn about its nationally significant story, this meeting focused on explaining how the existing public / private partnerships work. Director See reported that Congressman Benishek was very pleased with the idea of the federal government working in concert with the local heritage and historical organizations.

Unfortunately, the Commission will not receive any contingency funding from the NPS regional office this year. There is still a good possibility that the NPS will be able to provide the Commission some operational funding toward the end of their fiscal year in September, but this is not a certainty.

Finally, See completed the tax forms this quarter, including Form 990 for Copper Country Preservation (CCP), and also renewed CCP's License to Solicit that enables the solicitation of charitable donations in the State of Michigan.

## **Commission Committees and Projects**

### **Announcements / Executive**

Commissioner Langseth noted that four Commissioners would not be seeking reappointment: Stephen Albee, Allan Johnson, Ed Jenich, and Kim Hoagland.

### **Budget / Finance**

Commissioner Dana reported that the Commission has reviewed the financial statements and quarterly bills, from January 14, 2015 to April 21, 2015.

Moved by Sue Dana and seconded by Stephen Albee to approve bills in total, including wages and taxes, in the amount of \$27,828.25. **Motion carried unanimously. (7/0).**

### **Development**

Nothing to report.

### **Partnerships**

Nothing to report.

### **Preservation-Stewardship**

Nothing to report.

## **Superintendent's Report**

Superintendent Mike Pflaum began by providing an overview of recent news of national and regional nature.

Pflaum began by reporting that he would be returning to Keweenaw National Historical Park on a full-time basis beginning May 27<sup>th</sup>.

Pflaum additionally related that Cameron “Cam” Sholly has been in place as director of the National Park Service’s Midwest Region for around a month, and that it is hoped that Sholly will be able to make a visit to the park this summer.

Next year marks the centennial of the National Park Service, and on April 2<sup>nd</sup> of this year the NPS began a national advertising campaign, themed “Find Your Park”; there will be a number of opportunities for park partners and the community to be involved and build from this national advertising campaign to increase awareness of Keweenaw National Historical Park. On August 25<sup>th</sup> of this year there will be a 99<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration for the NPS, which will provide an excellent opportunity for organizations to participate.

Pflaum reported that for a variety of reasons the NPS budget at KNHP is modestly improved over recent years, and that this increase will help with funding seasonal employees to plan and manage events and programs, in particular those related to the upcoming centennial. While the purpose of parks is preservation and interpretation, their success is shared by their communities: every dollar spent in managing the National Parks, noted Pflaum, tends to return up to ten dollars to local and regional economies.

Approximately twenty participants, including Commissioners and senior staff from KNHP, several park Partners, and NPS employees from outside the park, will be attending the NPS Foundations Planning Meeting the week of April 27<sup>th</sup>. The purpose of this workshop is to review and reaffirm the purpose and significance of the park, to explore missing data needs, and to discuss priorities for the park going forward. An open house will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. on Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, to inform the public about the workshop as well as to accept input from the public. The workshop itself will take place the following three days with a facilitator and invited participants.

NPS Associate Director of Park Planning, Facilities, and Lands, Vic Knox, is tentatively scheduled to visit KNHP from Washington, D.C. June 8<sup>th</sup> for an in-depth tour of the Quincy Smelter and to visit the headquarters of Isle Royale National Park in Houghton.

The NPS Zone meeting will be held at Voyageurs National Park in International Falls, Minnesota from June 1<sup>st</sup> through June 3<sup>rd</sup>, and will focus on NPS centennial celebrations and on enhancing communication, networking opportunities, and collaboration between partners of member parks—the National Parks of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Northeastern Iowa, and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan—and the parks themselves.

Superintendent Pflaum and Scott See are planning on attending the next meeting of the National Parks of Lake Superior Foundation (NPLSF), a consortium of five National Parks on Lake Superior, taking place at Grand Portage, Minnesota, from May 19<sup>th</sup> through the 22<sup>nd</sup>. The following NPLSF meeting will be held in the first half of September at KNHP, and will be a great opportunity for the Commission to engage with these other parks.

The Calumet Visitor Center is now open four days a week, Thursday through Sunday, and is anticipated to be open seven days a week beginning in mid-May and continuing through the end of September.

Pflaum reported that the Park’s Facebook page continues to receive a great deal of attention, and encouraged everyone to visit the page and to share it widely.

Chief of Interpretation Kathleen Harter is coordinating a weeklong workshop to be held the week of May 5<sup>th</sup> to develop a comprehensive Keweenaw Heritage Sites interpretive plan.

Also beginning May 5<sup>th</sup>, museum collections from three parks—Isle Royale, Keweenaw, and Pictured Rocks—will be consolidated from substandard facilities for safekeeping and management.

Historical Architect John Rosemurgy has been working closely with the Quincy Mine Hoist Association to develop a photovoltaic lighting system for the entrance of the Mine, using funds received in a settlement with Wisconsin over air-quality issues. Work is anticipated to be completed by this summer.

Finally, Pflaum reported that a two-day operational leadership workshop focused on risk management and safety programs will be held at KNHP June 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>, and encouraged a representative from the Commission to attend.

### **Other reports from Commissioners**

Commissioners Stephen Albee, Allan Johnson, and Ed Jenich reported that they will not be seeking reappointment to the Commission, and all noted that they had very much enjoyed the experience of serving on the Commission. A heartfelt thanks was extended to them for their years of service.

Commissioner Hoagland reported that she had attended the National Park Friends Alliance meeting in Washington, D.C. in March, and noted the diversity of relationships and capabilities of the various friends groups in attendance at the meeting; Hoagland has sent a written report on the meeting to the Commission.

Commissioner Sullivan reported that repointing of the Copper Country Firefighters History Museum in Calumet is underway, and that work is expected to be completed by the end of June. The \$35,000 project is being undertaken by the low bidder, A-1 Drywall of Hancock.

Commissioner Langseth reported that this summer an exhibit created by the Calumet High School advanced technology class featuring 5<sup>th</sup> Street of Calumet, circa 1910, will be on display at the Keweenaw Heritage Center in the former St. Anne's Church in Calumet.

### **Comments from Legislators or Legislative Staff**

Nothing to report.

### **Comments from Keweenaw Heritage Site Representatives**

Larry Molloy, president of the Keweenaw County Historical Society (KCHS), reported on summer KCHS projects and activities. Restoration projects include work at the Eagle Harbor Lighthouse to repair its leaky roof and replace spalling brickwork on the front façade, if funding becomes available, and two houses in Central will be undergoing restoration. Work is also being undertaken at the boat house at the Eagle Harbor Life Saving Station to excavate the launch ramps; this is currently in the permitting phase. Scheduled entertainment for this summer includes a music fest at Gay, a jazz fest at Central, and Neil Woodward in concert in Copper Harbor. Watercolor workshops are planned for early August in Central.

Superintendent Pflaum commended the KCHS for their work in supporting the arts, and, noting that there are grants available to support arts in the parks in association with the NPS centennial celebration, suggested a longer discussion in the near future to explore funding opportunities for 2016.

Jean Pemberton, president of Copper Range Historical Society (CRHS), reported that the CRHS will be opening for the season June 15<sup>th</sup>, continuing through September 25<sup>th</sup>, and noted that visitors are welcomed at any time by appointment. An open house featuring a park ranger is scheduled for May 30<sup>th</sup>, and the annual member dinner will be held at Grace Lutheran Church in South Range on July 2<sup>nd</sup> featuring guest speaker Brian Hoduski, who will speak about the importance of museums to small towns. On July 4<sup>th</sup>, CRHS will again offer historic tours from South Range to Painesdale and Seeberville on the Red Jacket Trolley.

### **Comments from the Public**

Cheryl Fahrner, Executive Director of Keweenaw Chamber of Commerce, announced that there is an upcoming “Connecting Entrepreneurial Communities” conference to be held October 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, and invited the NPS to present at the event. Fahrner also suggested that she and other Chamber members are interested in visiting the Heritage Sites as a means of strengthening the connections between local businesspeople and the Sites.

### **Motion to Adjourn**

Moved to adjourn by Stephen Albee, and seconded by Ed Jenich at 10:19 a.m. **Motion carried unanimously. (7/0).**

### **Next Meeting**

Tuesday, July 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015.